



\$2.99 #19

Nodwick™

KRAUTZ!

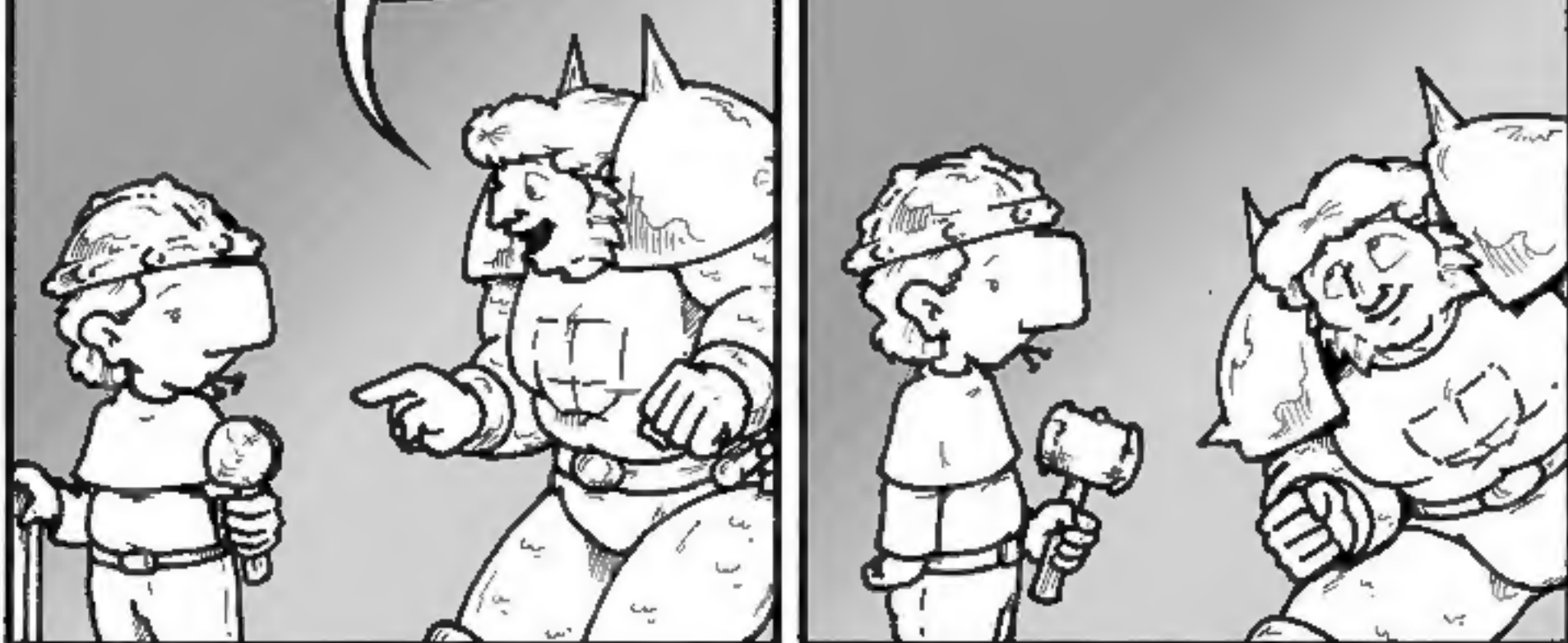


KRUTZ!



BETTER!

HERE, HIT ME WITH
THAT MALLET!





KRUTZ!



AH!

DID YOU GO
FRUIT LOOPY THIS
AFTERNOON?

WHAT'S THIS? A
GAME OF "CONCUSSION" AND
I WASN'T INVITED?

I'M
SITTING THIS
ROUND OUT.
FEEL FREE TO
TAKE MY
PLACE.

NO, NO! I WAS DEMONSTRATING
THE NEW **CUSSWORD** I LEARNED! IT'S ALL
THE **RAGE** IN THE TAVERNS, AND IT'S
SPREADING LIKE **WILDFIRE**!

HERE, THIS WOMAN AT THE
"FANG AND FLAGON" WAS HANDING OUT
THESE BROCHURES!



"**KRUTZ!** THE STATE-OF-THE-
ART IN SWEARING. USEFUL AS A VERB, ADVERB,
NOUN, PRONOUN, ADJECTIVE, GERUND, EXCLAMATION, AND
MANY OTHER FORMS OF COMMUNICATION. USE **KRUTZ**
FOR **ONE HUNDRED PERCENT RELIEF** FROM ANGER, PAIN,
FRUSTRATION, OR ANY OTHER FORM OF MENTAL
OR PHYSICAL COMPLAINT."

"START **WARS**. IMPRESS
THUGS. CURDLE MILK AT TEN
PACES." OH, GOODNESS...

"**KRUTZ** IS THE
FIRST AND LAST WORD
YOU'LL EVER NEED. UTTER IT UNDER
YOUR BREATH OR SCREAM IT AT
THE TOP OF YOUR LUNGS. GET
KRUTZED TODAY."



IT'S A **NOT-NICE** TEMPLE
FILLED WITH A BUNCH OF **CULTISTS**
WHO SUPPOSEDLY WORSHIP AN **EVIL**
DRAGON. THEY'VE BEEN CAUSING A LOT OF
PROBLEMS LATELY. THEY WERE STEALING
LIVESTOCK FOR THEIR **ICKY CEREMONIES**,
BUT A DAY AGO, THEY **KIDNAPPED A**
DUKE'S DAUGHTER—

SO WE'RE GOING
TO **KRUTZ** THEM UP THEIR
KRUTZING KRUTZES AND
GET THE **KRUTZING**
DAUGHTER BACK!!



IT MAKES NO SENSE, BUT
I **UNDERSTAND** WHAT HE'S **SAYING**.
IT'S ALMOST **SCARY**.

CAN YOU STOP
PIFFANY FROM TRYING
TO STUFF **ROCKS** IN
HER **EARS**? MY HANDS
ARE **FULL**.

OUR HEROES SNEAK CLOSER...

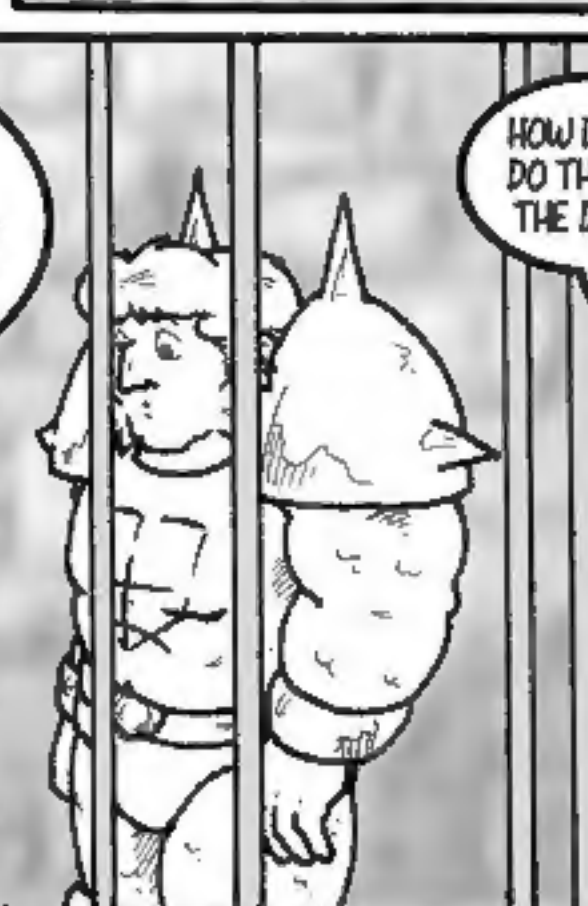
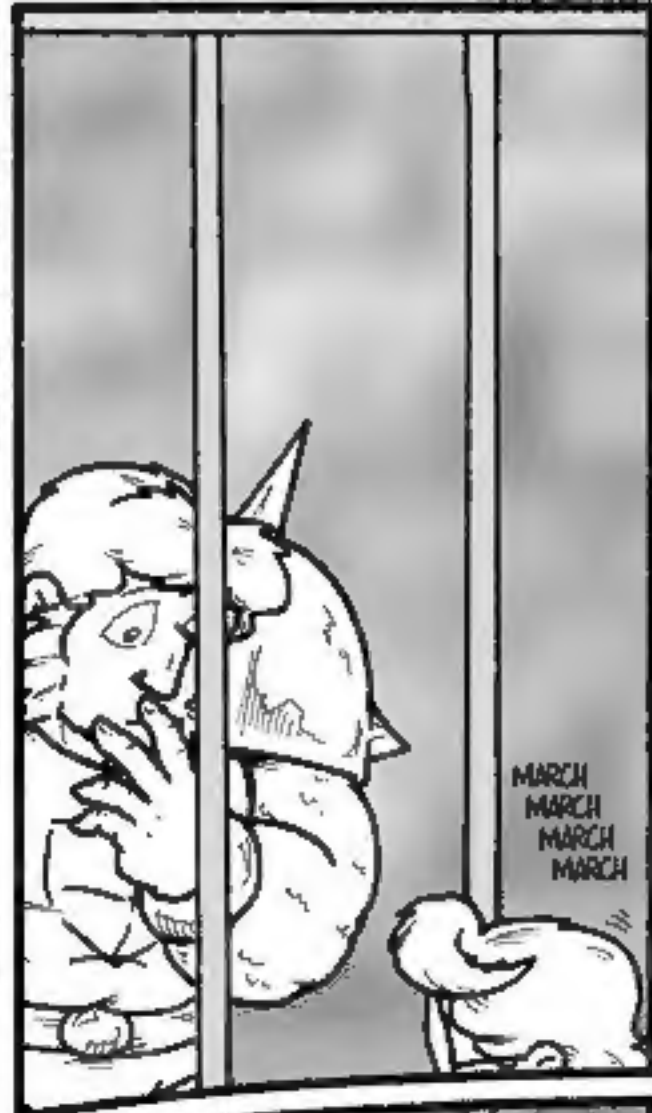
KRUTZ!
THEY'VE GOT
SENTRIES. WE CAN'T
JUST GO **KRUTZING**
THROUGH THE
FRONT DOOR...

IT LOOKS LIKE
THEY FAVOR A **DARK ROBE** MOTIF.
IT SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO WHIP UP
SOME **DISGUISES**.

AND WE CAN
SNEAK IN WITHOUT **SAYING**
ANYTHING!









NODWICK KIND OF GOT CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE WHEN HE HELPED ME TO LURE SOME OF THE HIGH PRIESTS IN FRONT OF MY SORCERER'S SIDEWINDER MISSILES. ON THE UP SIDE, I DON'T THINK HE FELT MUCH.

WOW. THESE CULTISTS CAN'T FIGHT WORTH A KRUTZ!

DO I HAVE TO START USING A DEMERIT SYSTEM?

HELPED YOU LURE? YOU PRACTICALLY PUSHED HIM...



YAY! A FULL SENTENCE THAT'S FIT FOR FAMILY HEARING!

WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT...

IMPRESSIVE!



THEIR TASTE IN DECOR IS CERTAINLY WORTH THE EFFORT TO CLOSE THEM DOWN.

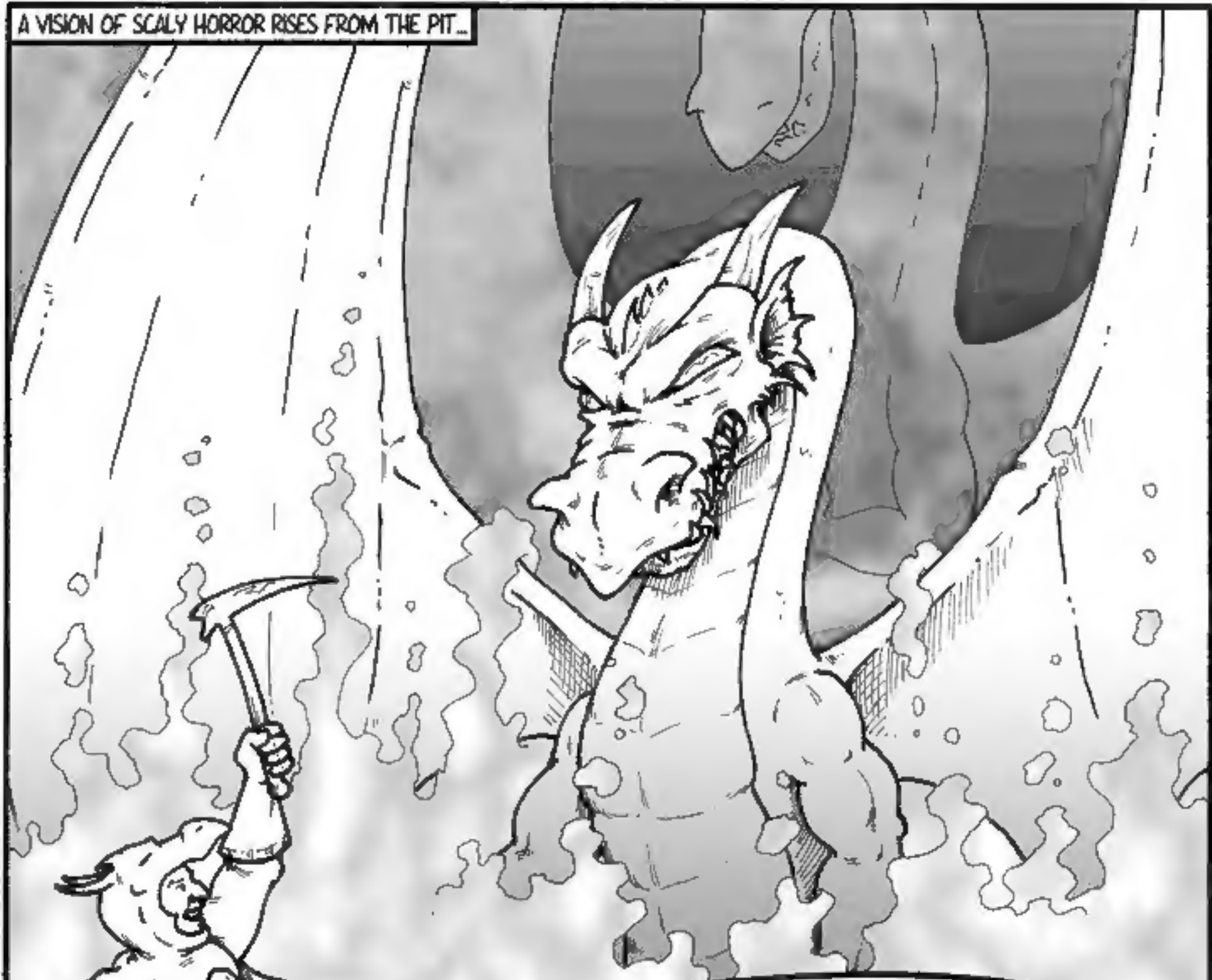
THIS IS ICKINESS OF A NEW ORDER!

THIS IS THEIR KRUTZING GOD?

HAI YOU THINK YOU HAVE WON?

THOSE WHO YOU HAVE DEFEATED WERE MERELY DELAYING YOU SO THAT I COULD COMPLETE THE SUMMONING CEREMONY! YOU NOW FACE THE WRATH OF ISULA-DRACO!

A VISION OF SCALY HORROR RISES FROM THE PIT...



OH, KRUTZ.

STOP THAT!

WE'RE FACING
A BEAST THE SIZE OF
A KEEP AND SHE'S
WORRIED ABOUT THEM
CURSING?

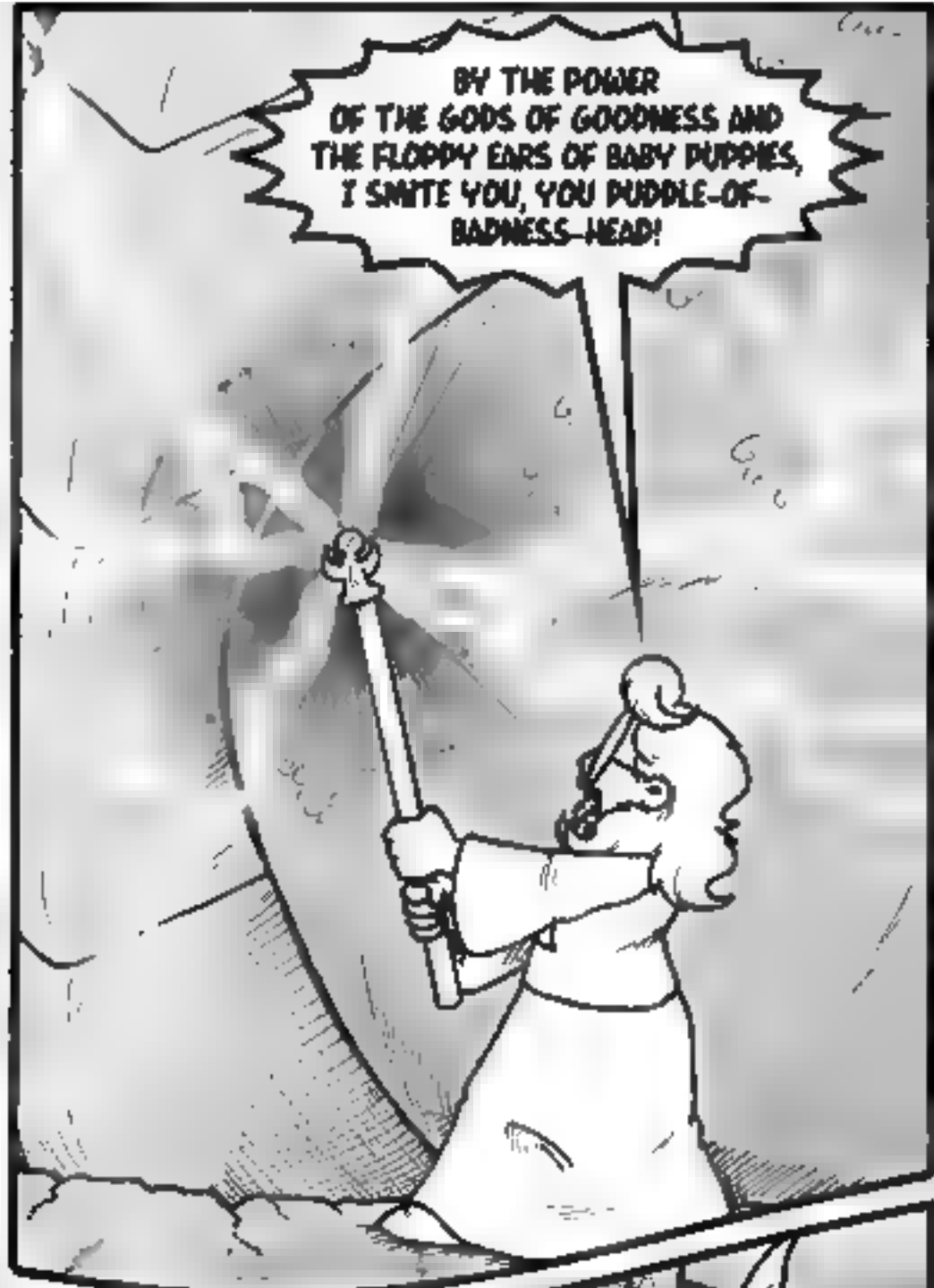
SHE'S
FUNNY THAT
WAY.

WHO CALLS ME
FORTH FROM MY MYSTIC
SLUMBER?

YOUR HUMBLE
SERVANT BEGS
FORGIVENESS! THESE
TRESPASSERS WOULD SEE
YOUR SHRINE DEFILED AND
YOUR FOLLOWERS
SCATTERED TO THE
WINDS!

METE
OUT YOUR
JUDGMENT, O
MIGHTY ISULA
DRACO!







WE REALLY
KRUTZED THAT PLACE OUT
OF EXISTENCE! KRUTZED
'EM ALL!

IF ONLY I
KNEW HOW TO CAUSE
PERSONAL DEAFNESS RATHER
THAN CURE IT...

SHE'S STILL
MORE CONCERNED WITH
THAT WORD THAN THE FACT
THAT YEAGAR HAD ME
CRUSHED BY A FALLING
DRAGON?

PERHAPS SHE
SHOULD BE...



COME
AGAIN?

IT'S NOT
POSSIBLE. I MEAN,
SOMETIMES SWEARING MAKES
YOU FEEL A LITTLE BETTER
ABOUT MISFORTUNE, BUT
THIS WORD... IT'S ALMOST
LIKE MAGIC!

I CAN ALMOST FEEL
THE SAME "TINGLE" THAT SPELLS
PRODUCE WHEN SOMEONE REALLY
SAYS IT WITH CONVICTION.



BUT YOU AREN'T
CERTAIN?

NOT YET. I'LL
DO SOME RESEARCH WHEN WE
GET BACK HOME.



ALMOST BACK
TO TOWN. MAN, IT'LL BE
GOOD TO KRUTZ ON
DOWN TO THE KRUTZIN'
BAR, KICK BACK A FEW
KRUTZIN' ALES AND SHOOT
THE KRUTZ WITH
THE GUYS.

DO YOU
HEAR... MUSIC?

I THINK
SO...

THAT'S
THE TOURNEY
HALF-TIME
TROUBADOURS.
IS THERE A
HOLIDAY
TODAY?



OH, NO...

WOAH

THIS COULD
BE BAD...



KRUTZTOBERFEST

THIS CAN'T BE
HAPPENING! THEY
CHANGED THE NAME
OF OUR TOWN!

THAT WORD
JUST NEVER GETS OLD!
GREATNESS!

NODWICK? THAT
FEELING OF UNEASE I HAD IS
GETTING STRONGER.

THAT JUST
MIGHT BE **IMPENDING
DOOM**. I GET THAT
WHENEVER YEAGAR IS
HAPPY.

Welcome to Seente
**Krutzing
Uollow**

A nice place to live,
long as you keep yo
krutz together and do
get in anyone else's kru

"KRUTZ" T-SHIRTS!
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL STATEMENT! I
GOTTA GET ONE FOR EVERY DAY OF
THE MONTH!

NO! COME BACK!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE DOING!

HANG ON THERE
WE HAVE **BIGGER** THINGS TO
WORRY ABOUT.

LIKE
WHAT, ARTAX?
HE'S GOING TO BE
WORSE THAN
WHEN I MET
HIM!

I KNOW MY SPELLS
USE THE MYSTIC ENERGIES
OF MAGIC AND YOURS COME
FROM AN ASSORTMENT OF
DEITIES, BUT WE BOTH CAN
FEEL WHEN THOSE ENERGIES
ARE IN USE, RIGHT?

RIGHT.

SO, DO
YOU FEEL
SOMETHING
NOW?







NODWICK TELLS ME YOU CAN STOP PEOPLE FROM DOING SOMETHING BAD.

IF THAT WAS THE CASE, OUR WORK CONTRACTS WOULDN'T READ LIKE **GOthic HORROR STORIES** WRITTEN BY **SUICIDAL MONKS**.

WHAT SHE MEANS IS, WE CAN STOP EVERYONE FROM USING THE WORD **'KRUTZ!'**

OH, YEAH. NO PROBLEM. WE'LL NEED A LITTLE CASH FOR EXPENSES, BUT WE CAN DO IT.

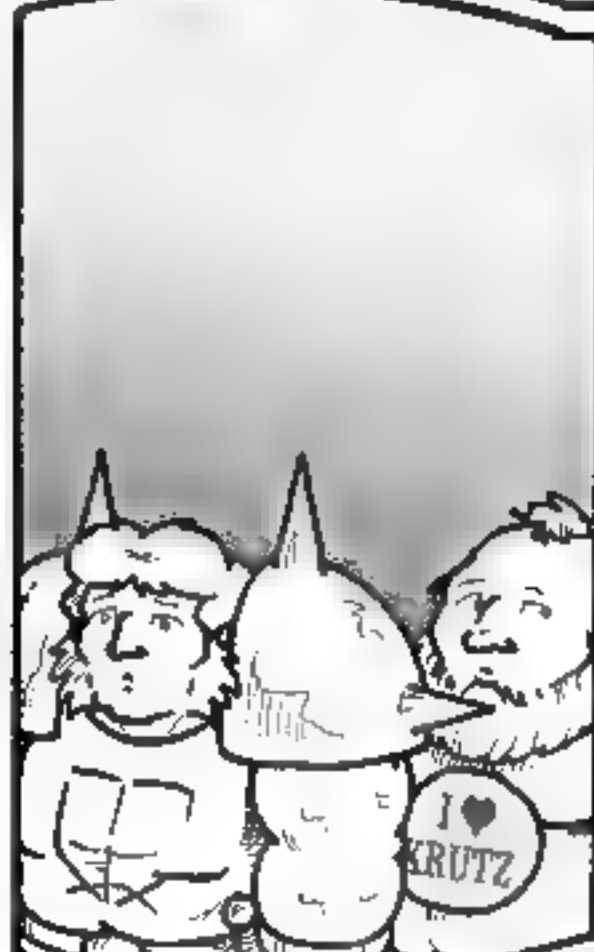
YOU CAN? HOW?

YOU'LL SEE.

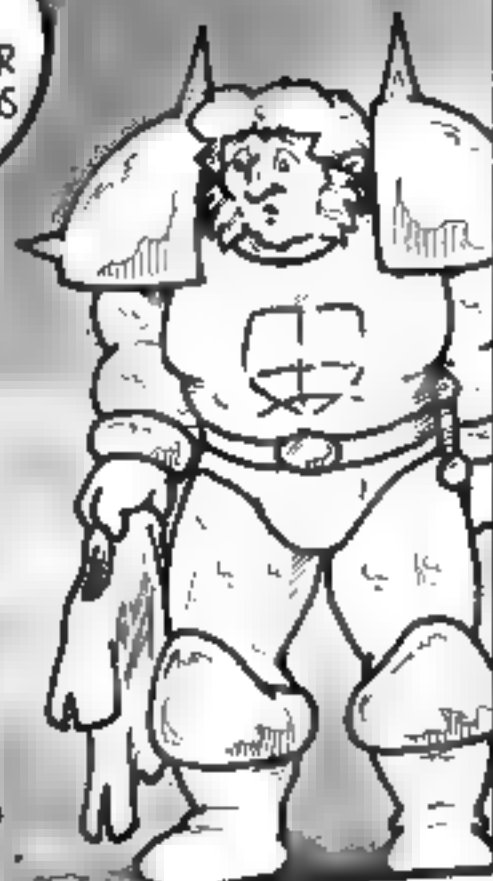


KRUTZ! SAY IT UNLESS YOU ARE NUTS! **KRUTZ** ME RUNNING NOW I'M COMING TO **KRUTZ** YOUR BUTTS. **KRUTZ!** TO YELL WHEN THINGS HAVE GONE WRONG! WHEN YOUR TICKED-OFF, IN PAIN, OR JUST SINGING THIS SONG!*

*SUNG TO THE TUNE OF "BINGO" BY THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS



HEY, YOU
LOOK PRETTY
DOWN. WHO
KRUTZED IN YOUR
CORN FLAKES THIS
MORNING?



EVERYONE'S
LEAVING!



AMAZING!
HOW--?



NOTHING KILLS A
TREND LIKE HAVING THE MOST
UNDESIRABLE PEOPLE IN THE
WORLD EMBRACE IT.



IT'S TRUE.
WE CAN KNOCK
ANYTHING
POPULAR OR IN
STYLE DEAD IN A
MATTER OF
HOURS.

NEHRU TUNICS?
WE KILLED 'EM.

HANDLEBAR
MOUSTACHES?
THEY DIDN'T
LAST A WEEK.

BELL-
BOTTOM
PANTS DIED BY
THEMSELVES,
BUT WE WERE
READY TO
TAKE 'EM
OUT.



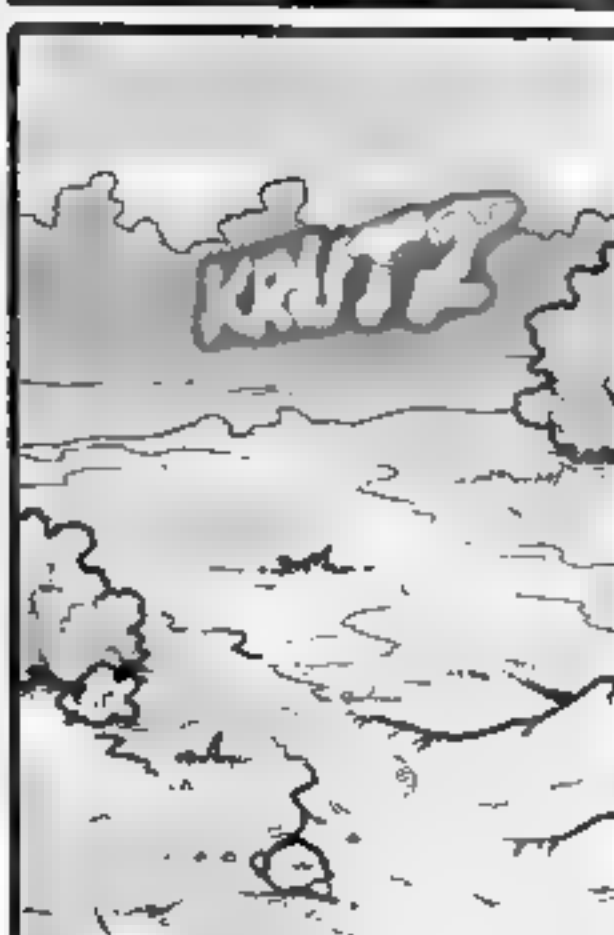
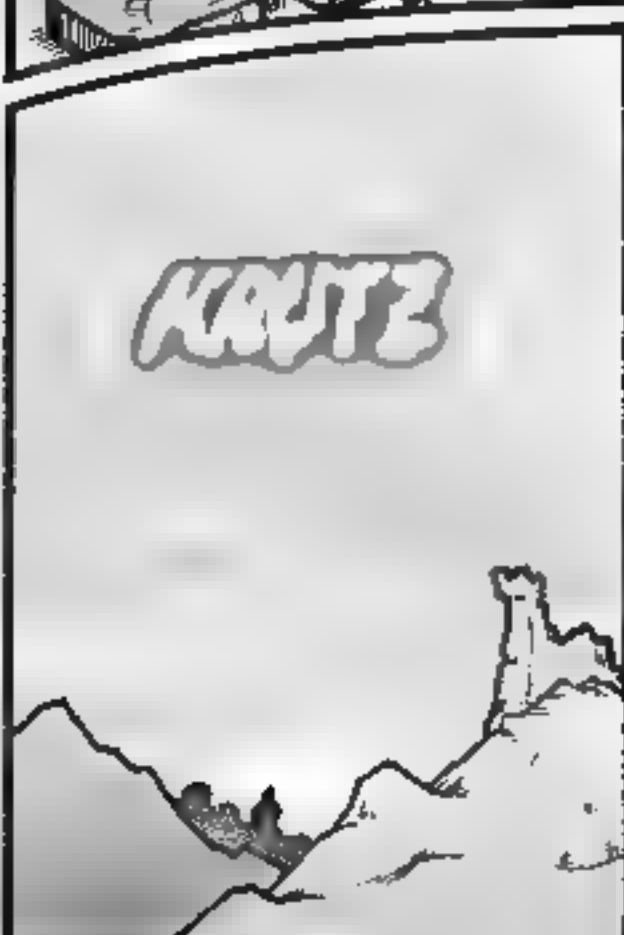
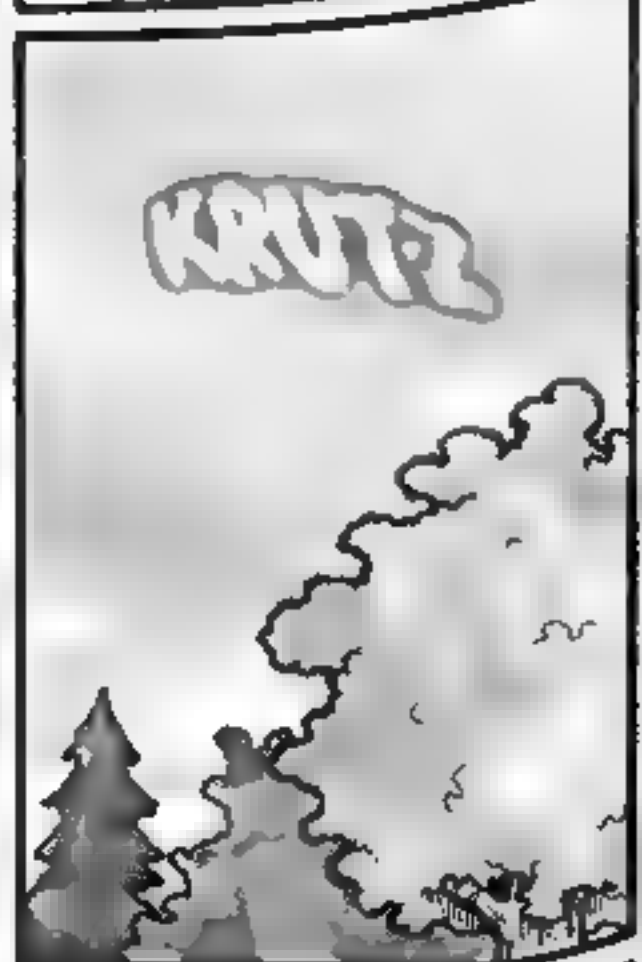
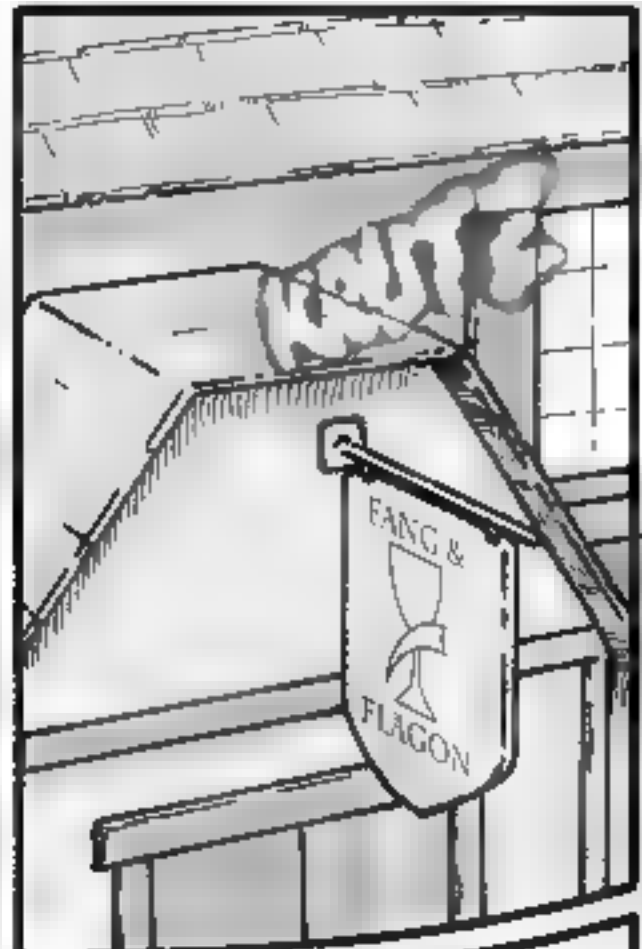
BUT THAT STILL
DOESN'T ANSWER THE QUESTION
OF WHO STARTED THIS WORD,
AND WHY.



AT LEAST
THEY AREN'T GETTING
ANYTHING MORE OUT
OF IT!

WE
HOPE...





AH... ONE
MORE...

AND THE LAST,
I FEAR NO ONE SEEMS
TO BE USING OUR WORD
OF DARKNESS ANY
MORE.

THE SPELL
IS BEGINNING TO ~~WANE~~,
ANYWAY.



NO MATTER
IT WAS FAR MORE
SUCCESSFUL THAN I HAD
HOPED.

BETWEEN
YOUR GOD'S POWER AND
THE BOOK OF FIENDISH MAGIC
HE GAVE ME, THERE IS LITTLE WE
CANNOT ACCOMPLISH
AND NOW...



NOW, LORD
BAPHUMMAL HAS GIVEN
US PRECISELY WHAT
WE NEED.



I'VE PERFORMED
QUITE A BIT OF NECROMANCY
IN MY TIME, BUT I MUST SAY
THAT THIS PROCEDURE DISTURBS
EVEN ME.

HE WON'T
BE THE MAN WE
KNEW, BUT HE
WILL SERVE.

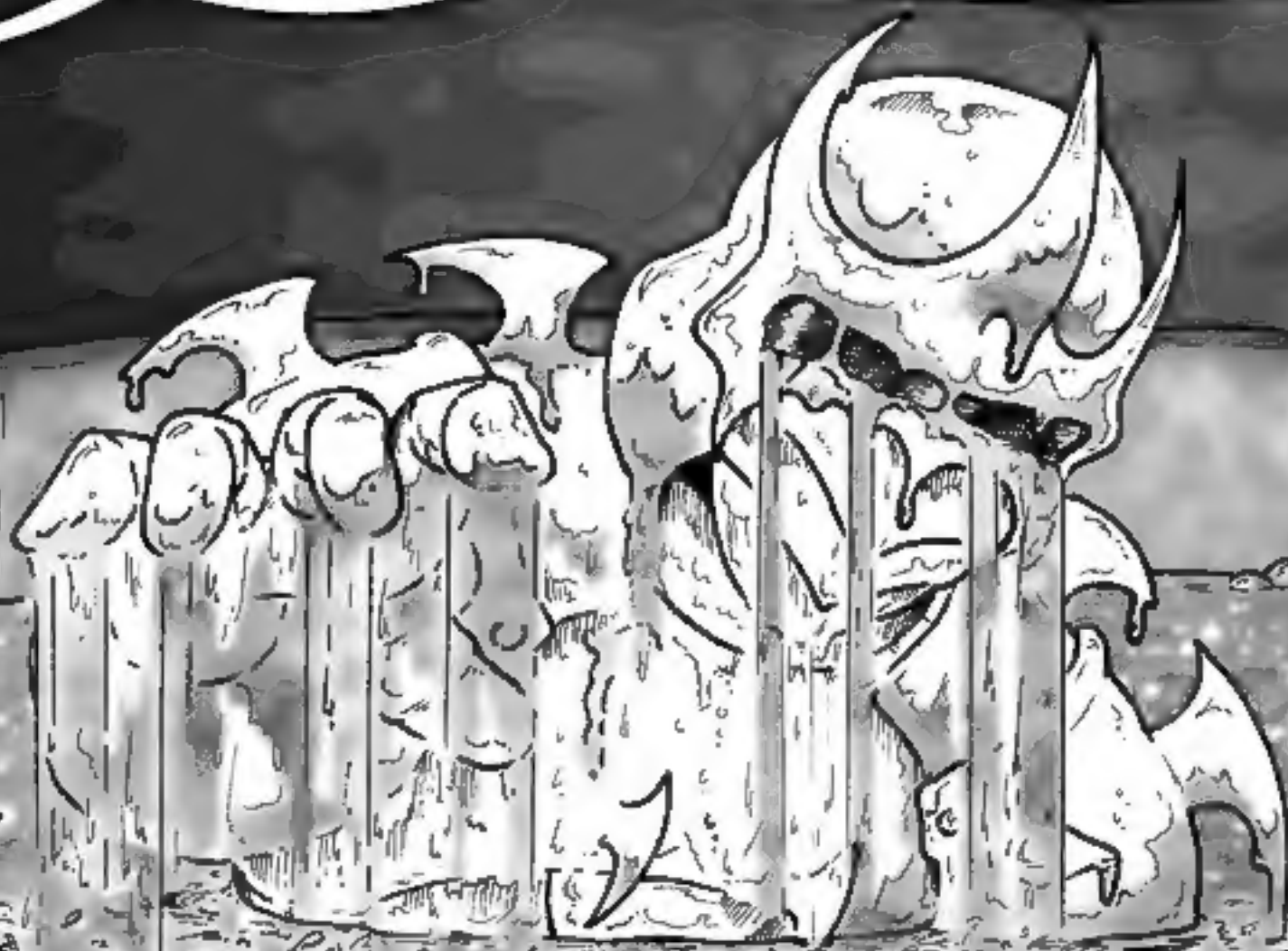


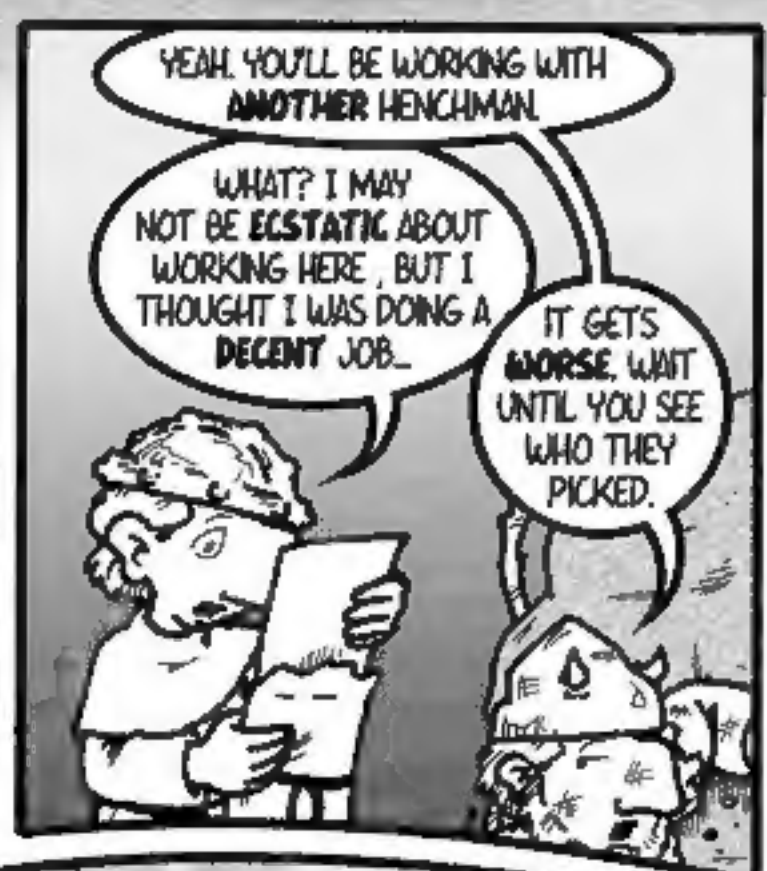
THIS FINAL AMOUNT
OF ELDIR GLEANED FROM ALL THOSE
ANGRY USES OF THE WORD 'KRUTZ'
WILL RESTORE OUR COMPANION
TO US.



ALTHOUGH I
DOUBT HE'LL BE MUCH OF A
CONVERSATIONALIST.

AND AFTER WE FIT HIM WITH THE
GAUNTLET OF SUPREMACY, WE SHOULD BE WELL PREPARED
TO CONTINUE LORD BAPHUMAYAL'S PLANS.







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